

(e) The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene shall provide staff for the Task Force.

(f) A member of the Task Force may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

(g) On approval of the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene, the Department shall provide assistance to members requiring additional services to attend meetings of the Task Force.

(h) The Task Force shall:

(1) Review the existing rate system for community-based services funded by the Developmental Disabilities Administration and determine its strengths and weaknesses;

(2) Identify current mandates for service delivery;

(3) Consider costs as reported in the Developmental Disabilities Administration's cost report;

~~(3)~~ (4) Compare the cost of current mandates for service delivery to the level of funding provided by the State;

~~(4)~~ (5) Identify Consider promising practices in rate systems in other states that fund appropriate and individualized supports in a cost-effective manner, which are consistent with local and national best practices;

~~(5)~~ (6) Identify changes in the reimbursement system that further support self-directed services and implementation of best practices; and

~~(6)~~ (7) Develop recommendations to address the problem of the structural under-funding of community services.

(i) The Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations by December 31, 2007, to the Governor, and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, the Senate Finance Committee, the Senate Budget and Taxation Committee, the House Health and Government Operations Committee, and the House Appropriations Committee.

(j) After the Task Force has submitted its final report, the Task Force shall continue to advise the Governor and the Maryland General Assembly on the implementation of its recommendations.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2007. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and 1 month and, at the end of July 31, 2008, with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and of no further force and effect.

Approved by the Governor, April 10, 2007.